

Remarks

I. Status of Claims

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 31-122 are pending in the application, with 31-35, 52, 70, 89 and 106 being the independent claims. Claims 1-30 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. New claims 31-122 are sought to be added. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more continuation applications directed to the subject matter of the canceled claims. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

II. Amendments

Applicants have amended the specification to direct the entry of the corrected Sequence Listing between the specification and the claims of the above-identified application. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.825(b), the paper copy of the corrected Sequence Listing and the computer readable copy of the Sequence Listing submitted on March 5, 1999, in parent Application No. 08/841,636, filed April 30, 1997, are the same. Applicants hereby state that the changes made in the Sequence Listing do not include new matter.

Applicants have also amended the specification to include a cross-reference to related applications.

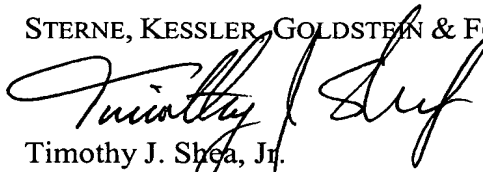
Applicants have further amended the specification and the claims where necessary to refer to the appropriate SEQ ID NOS. Support for the claim amendments can be found *inter alia* throughout the specification, in the Sequence Listing, and in the drawings. No new matter is believed to be added by these amendments.

Conclusion

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. Applicants believe the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

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